Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-167 (Cancelled)

168. (New) A primer for preparing a tissue for contact with a tissue sealant or adhesive, the primer comprising:

an acidic aqueous solution, wherein the acidic aqueous solution promotes adhesion between the tissue and the sealant or adhesive.

169. (New) The primer according to claim 168 wherein the acidic aqueous solution comprises hydrochloric acid.

170 (New) The primer according to claim 168 wherein the acidic aqueous solution comprises a buffer.

171. (New) The primer according to claim 170 wherein the buffer comprises morpholino ethanesulfonic acid.

172. (New) The primer according to claim 171 wherein the pH of the primer is in the range of about 4-7.

173. (New) The primer according to claim 171 wherein the concentration of the morpholino ethanesulfonic acid is in the range of about 0.3-0.7 M.

174. (New) A primer for preparing a tissue for contact with a tissue sealant or adhesive, the primer comprising:

a protein cross-linker, wherein the protein cross-linker promotes adhesion between the tissue and the sealant or adhesive.

175. (New) The primer according to claim 174 wherein the cross-linker comprises a carbodiimide.

176. (New) The primer according to claim 175 wherein the carbodiimide comprises 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

177. (New) The primer according to claim 174 wherein the cross-linker comprises a carbodiimide and a hydroxysuccinimide.

178. (New) The primer according to claim 177 wherein the carbodiimide comprises 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride and the hydroxysuccinimide comprises N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide.

179. (New) The primer according to claim 174 wherein the cross-linker comprises a polyaldehyde.

180. (New) The primer according to claim 179 wherein the polyaldehyde comprises glutaraldehyde.

181. (New) A primer for preparing a tissue for contact with a tissue sealant or adhesive, the primer comprising:

a compound that optimizes the interface between the tissue and the tissue sealant or adhesive by matching one or more chemical or physical properties of the tissue to that of the tissue sealant or adhesive.

182. (New) The primer according to claim 181 wherein the compound comprises a fluorinated compound.

183. (New) The primer according to claim 182 wherein the fluorinated compound comprises perfluorooctanoic acid.

184. (New) The primer according to claim 181 wherein the compound comprises a hydrophobic compound.

185. (New) The primer according to claim 181 wherein the compound comprises a surfactant.

186. (New) The primer according to claim 181 wherein the compound comprises an alcohol.

187. (New) A method for preparing a tissue for contact with a tissue sealant or adhesive comprising the step of applying to a tissue locus a primer solution comprising an acidic aqueous solution.

188. (New) The method according to claim 187 wherein the acidic aqueous solution comprises dilute hydrochloric acid.

189. (New) The method according to claim 187 wherein the acidic aqueous solution comprises a buffer.

190. (New) The method according to claim 189 wherein the buffer comprises morpholino ethanesulfonic acid.

191. (New) A method for preparing a tissue for contact with a tissue sealant or adhesive comprising the step of applying to a tissue locus a primer solution comprising a protein cross-linker.

192. (New) The method according to claim 191 wherein the cross-linker comprises a carbodiimide.

193. (New) The method according to claim 192 wherein the carbodiimide comprises 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

194. (New) The method according to claim 191 wherein the cross-linker comprises a carbodiimide and a hydroxysuccinimide.

195. (New) The method according to claim 194 wherein the carbodiimide comprises 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride and the hydroxysuccinimide comprises N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide.

196. (New) A method for priming a tissue for contact with a tissue sealant or adhesive comprising the step of applying to a tissue locus a primer solution comprising a compound that optimizes the interface between the tissue and the tissue sealant or adhesive by matching one or more chemical or physical properties of the tissue to that of the tissue sealant or adhesive.

197. (New) The method according to claim 196 wherein the compound comprises a fluorinated compound.

198. (New) The method according to claim 197 wherein the fluorinated compound comprises perfluorooctanoic acid.

199. (New) The method according to claim 196 wherein the compound comprises a hydrophobic compound.

200. (New) The method according to claim 196 wherein the compound comprises a surfactant.

201. (New) The method according to claim 196 wherein the compound comprises an alcohol.